

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner requested new drawings for this application. However, a PTO-948 form detailing the changes required to the drawings was not supplied with the office action. Accordingly, applicant's attorney contacted the Examiner to request that the office action be withdrawn and a new office action be supplied to applicant. On December 11, 2003, the Examiner mailed a PTO-948 form to applicant; however, the last office action was never withdrawn and no response was received to the Request to Withdrawn Office Action as Incomplete, which was submitted on December 8, 2003. As detailed in the attached Petition, this means that a complete office action, including the changes required to the drawings, was never sent to applicants until December 11, 2003. Since applicant should be provided with 3 months to reply to a complete office action without incurring extension fees, the last office action should have been withdrawn and a new office action with a new date for reply should have been sent out with the PTO-948 form. New formal drawings that conform to the later supplied PTO-948 form accompany this amendment.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4 and 21 because the Examiner says the air conditioning system is not positively claimed in the claims. Independent claims 1 and 6, have been amended to include the air conditioning system as a claim element. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because these two claims lack antecedent basis for "said reflectors". Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 8, which includes reflectors. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazilla in view of Haidinger. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Mazilla shows “a source of ultraviolet light in the form of fixture-mounted lamps, which are drive by remotely located ballasts.” Independent claims 1, 6, and 29 have been amended to specify that the fluorescent light ballasts are remote from the duct of the air conditioning system. As recited on page 11, lines 11-15, and page 14, lines 7-10 of the specification, by locating the light ballasts and other electrical components remote from the air ducts, damage to these devices due to vibration is reduced.

Mazilla column 6, lines 9-19, states that the power pack which houses the ballast is located “within, or adjacent to, the ventilation duct.” As shown in Figure 1, adjacent to the ventilation duct means attached to the duct, not remote from the duct as claimed by applicants. By locating the power pack in or attached to the duct, the ballast and other electrical components would still be subjected to the vibrations of the duct.

Since neither Mazilla nor Haidinger disclose the ballast located remote from the air conditioning duct as claimed, the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, and 29 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 2-5, 7-22 and 30-34, which depend from claims 1, 6 and 29, should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

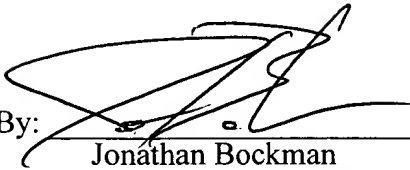
Claims 23-28 have been cancelled. New claims 35-48 have been added. The new independent claims are supported by the specification on page 12 lines 11-20. The dependent claims are similar to originally filed dependent claims 2-5 and specify that the ballasts are not subjected to all of the vibrations of the air conditioning system. No new matter has been added.

For the forgoing reasons, a notice of allowance allowing claims 1 and 3-19 is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952. 544342000100.**

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Respectfully submitted,

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